

EDGEFIELD COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING

Minutes
July 11, 2006
6:00 P. M.

The Edgefield County Council held its regular meeting at 6:00 PM Tuesday, July 11, 2006, in the County Council Chambers, 225 Jeter Street, Edgefield, SC.

Members present

C. Monroe Kneece, Chairman
Willie C. Bright, Vice Chairman
Norman Dorn, Councilman
Joel D. Hudson, Councilman
B. Everette Kitchens, Councilman

Others present

Wayne Adams, County Administrator
John F. Byrd, County Attorney
Lynn W. Strom, Finance/Budget Director
Barbara R. Stark, Clerk to Council

Chairman Kneece called the meeting to order and Councilman Hudson gave the invocation. The Pledge of Allegiance was then recited.

Minutes

The minutes of the June 6, 2006, Regular Meeting of Council, and the June 14th, Called Council Meeting were approved by a motion made by Councilman Kitchens, seconded by Councilman Dorn. The motion carried unanimously.

Reports

The reports were reviewed with no comments.

Ordinances

Councilman Bright made the motion to approve the first reading of Ordinance No. 05-06-280, "An Ordinance to Adopt and Implement Values for Property Taxation Purposes Established by the County Assessor and the S. C. Department of Revenue Based Upon the December 31, 2005, Valuation date of Property Tax Year 2006." The motion was seconded by Councilman Hudson and carried unanimously.

New Business

Animal Control Agreement / Agriculture Bldg Lease

The following Agreement and Lease were approved by council:

- (1) **Animal Control Service Agreement between Aiken County and Edgefield County.**

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Motion was made by Councilman Dorn, seconded by Councilman Hudson, to approve the Animal Control Service Agreement between Aiken County and Edgefield County. Motion carried unanimously.

- (2) Lease of 2281 sq. ft. of office space in the Agriculture Bldg (305 Gray Street) (Edgefield County farm Service Agency and the Natural Resource Conservation Service Offices.**

Motion was made by Councilman Hudson, seconded by Councilman Kitchens, to continue the lease of 2281 sq. ft. of office space in the Agriculture Bldg. Motion carried unanimously.

Appointments / Planning Commission

The Planning Commission submitted letters of resignation to the council from two of its members: Norman Stephenson (council district 3) and Dick Harper (at-large). Motion was made by Councilman Dorn, seconded by Councilman Kitchens, to appoint Nadine Horne (Trenton) to replace Norman Stephenson and to appoint Jeff Hughes (Edgefield) to replace Dick Harper. Motion carried unanimously.

Pandemic flu

Mike Casey, Emergency Preparedness Director, addressed council concerning the potential of an outbreak of pandemic (bird) flu. The state has been mandated by the federal government to come up with a pandemic flu contingency plan. The first planning session will be held Thursday (July 13) to begin working on a plan in the event this flu would strike South Carolina and/or Edgefield County. This includes all government offices and individuals as well as churches.

The predictions are that if the bird flu hits our area we could lose 40% of the workforce to the flu, either being sick yourself or being a caregiver to someone in your family that was sick, or by death.

Mr. Casey gave an update on Homeland Security Grant funds. For the last several years 100% grant money has been received through the federal government. Items have been purchased for EMS, fire departments, sheriff's department, etc. This coming year funds will be on a competitive bid process. Rather than the county receiving a certain amount of funds the county will have to go through a bid process against other counties for items.

Record discrepancy

Judge Robert Peeler addressed council referring to a letter he received from the Administrator on May 24, 2006, concerning the disconnection of Mr. Peeler's computer from the county network.

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Genealogy Society / Archives

Archives / Tricia Glenn

Ms. Glenn addressed council concerning microfilm of Edgefield County marriage records that the Probate Judge's office had asked for from the Tompkins Library in March of 2005. She was asking the microfilm to be returned since the Probate Judge's office does not possess a microfilm machine to be able to view the marriage records. After discussion and determining the approximate cost (\$300 - \$400) to order a set, Councilman Kitchens made a motion to order a set of the marriage records on microfilm for the archives office. The funds are to be taken from the contingency fund. The motion was seconded by Councilman Dorn, and carried unanimously.

Genealogy Society / Carol Bryan

An update to council on visitors to the Tompkins Library – how often it is utilized by out-of-town individuals staying several days in Edgefield. She also touched on the hours put in by volunteers. Ms. Bryan thanked council for their support and invited them to come by the library to look at the register of all of the out-of-town visitors.

Recreation / Nick Wates

Nick introduced three coaches of the Johnston Dixie Youth 12 year old all star team (winning the night before). They will be going to Charleston at the end of the month (July 19 – August 4) for the state tournament representing Edgefield County. There is a possibility the team would stay for seven nights. It will cost approximately \$8,000.00. It has been 13 years since Edgefield County has made the state tournament (third time it has happened). The recreation budget does not have the funds and Nick made a request to council for funds toward this trip.

A motion to donate \$2,000 toward the trip was made by Councilman Kneece, seconded by Councilman Dorn. Motion carried unanimously.

Upper Savannah / Rick Green

Rick gave an update on Highway 25 (Trenton to existing 4-lane). This has been put on the Department of Transportation high priority list for this year. This means that it will be taken to the State Congressional Delegation where, hopefully, funds will be appropriated for that work. Council may like to contact Congressman Barrett's office to let him know of its interest in that project. The total cost of the project is thirty-eight million. Only three million is received from the DOT for the region each year. Any funding would help.

Councilman Dorn asked if that could include a traffic light? Rick stated that probably it could, that the light could be included as part of the engineering process. There is no guarantee at all that any funds will be received but at least it is there to be considered.

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Amendment to FY 2006-07 Budget

At this point Councilman Kitchens made a motion to amend the FY 06-07 General Operating Budget. He stated he felt there is a car that to be purchased (assessor's office). Historically, they have used hand-me downs, and with the present condition of finances Mr. Kitchens said he felt that should continue and not purchase a new vehicle for the assessor's office. The motion was seconded by Councilman Bright and carried unanimously.

Councilman Kitchens also brought up the insurance that is provided for the employees for Edgefield County. There is more than one policy available to the employees. At the present time the county is paying for the employee's choice - \$32.00 a month difference. Councilman Kitchens made the motion, seconded by Councilman Dorn, that the county offer one base health policy and any other that is selected by an employee they would pay for it themselves. Motion carried unanimously.

No guests or comments from the public.

Claims approved:

A. PAYROLL:

Regular.....

PAYROLL:

Regular.....

B. General Operating.....\$716,635.04

Executive Session

Chairman Kneece asked for a motion to go in executive session pursuant to Code Section 30-4-70 (a) (1) of the SC Code of Laws 1976, as amended, concerning a personnel matter, and returning to regular session at the discretion of the Chairman.

Councilman Dorn made the motion, seconded by Councilman Hudson, to go in executive session and return to regular session at the discretion of the chairman. Motion carried.

Returning to regular session, the chairman stated that no action was brought out from executive session.

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There being no further business, Councilman Dorn made the motion to adjourn. The next regular council meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, August 8, 2006.

C. Monroe Kneece, Chairman

Willie C. Bright, Vice Chairman

Norman Dorn, Councilman

Joel D. Hudson, Councilman

B. Everette Kitchens, Council

ATTEST

Barbara R. Stark, Clerk to Council